



**Virginia Damage Prevention Conference
Virginia Beach, Virginia
April 23 -26, 2007**



Preliminary Agenda

Monday, April 23, 2007

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Check-In and Registration**

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Group Breakfast**

General Session

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**
*State Corporation Commission (“SCC”) and
Virginia Utility Protection Service, Inc. (“VUPS”)*

Virginia’s Damage Prevention Progress Report

Massoud Tahamtani, Director, Division of Utility and Railroad Safety, SCC

A progress report on Virginia’s Damage Prevention Program will be presented. This report will also include the various efforts to continually improve the program.

8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **An Operator’s Damage Prevention Program Success Story**
Dan Cote, General Manager, Operations, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc.
Columbia Gas has been able to achieve great success in their program in Virginia. Dan will share his Company’s efforts to achieve this result and present a comparison between Virginia’s results and those of other states in which Nisource (Columbia’s parent company) operates.

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Virginia One Call Technology Pilot Project**
Shane Ayers, Division of Utility and Railroad Safety, SCC
The purpose of the Virginia One Call Technology Pilot Project is to research, develop and implement technologies that have great potential to significantly enhance the communication of accurate information between excavators, utility locators and operators. This session will update the conference attendees on the project’s progress.

9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Networking Break and Vendor Exhibits**

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Education and Public Outreach Plan for 2007**
Frank Hudik, Division of Utility and Railroad Safety, SCC
A comprehensive review of Virginia’s 2007 Underground Utility Damage Prevention Education and Outreach Plan including the efforts on the 811 campaign will be presented.

- 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Damage Cost Recovery – Mediation Pilot Program**
Geetha Ravindra, Director, Department of Dispute Resolution Services, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
 The recovery of the proper cost of underground utility damages has been an issue in Virginia for several years. In late 2006, a group of Virginia stakeholders reached consensus on a Damage Cost Recovery Mediation Pilot Program. During this session, an overview of Virginia's mediation process will be presented with specific comments relative to the Damage Cost Recovery Mediation Pilot Program.
- 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **VUPS Call Center Enhancements**
Rick Pevarski, CEO, Virginia Utility Protection Service, Inc.
 Various enhancements to Virginia's one call notification process will be discussed during this session.
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Group Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Damage Prevention Advisory Committee Meeting**
 Per a request from stakeholders, the Committee will hold its April 2007 meeting during the conference. During the meeting damage reports including Informal Conference Reports, New/Continued Reports and Staff Action Reports will be examined by the Commission's Damage Prevention Advisory Committee.
- 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**
- Session A: Excavators, the Damage Prevention Act and the Commission's Rules for Enforcement of the Act**
Ed Sparhawk, Ivy H Smith Company, LLC
 An experienced excavator discusses how easy it is to partner with locators and comply with the Act and the Rules.
- Session B: Marking of Water/Sewer Laterals**
Frank Hudik, SCC
 We all understand the potential hazards of cross boring in the vicinity of unmarked water and sewer laterals. We truly need to address this problem before we face a serious accident.
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Networking Break and Vendor Exhibits**
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Breakout Sessions**
- Session A: GPS Ticket Entry Demonstration**
Shane Ayers, SCC, David Rosenberg, Vetro Corp. and VUPS Staff
 The software and hardware used in the Virginia One Call Technology Pilot Project will be demonstrated during this session.
- Session B: Virginia's Marking Requirements and Best Practices**
Frank Hudik, SCC
 What should be expected from locators marking underground facilities in Virginia.

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Vendor Exhibits, Reception and Silent Auction**
This session will feature new products and business solutions, as well as the opportunity to discuss damage prevention issues with vendors while enjoying light refreshments. We will also have a silent auction, coordinated by HCCA, to benefit the damage prevention educational efforts at the Southside Virginia Community College.

8:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. **Hospitality**
You are invited to come and visit with other conference attendees in an informal setting to strengthen communication and partnership.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Group Breakfast**

General Session

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. **Damage Prevention – A Locality’s Perspective**
Charles Meyer, Chief Operating Officer, City of Virginia Beach
Virginia Beach offers a wide variety of cultural and leisure activities and a diversified and dynamic economy. Charles Meyers will discuss the importance of damage prevention and the impact that utility damages can have on a locality’s economy.

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Damage Prevention - An Interstate Pipeline Operator’s Perspective**
Tim Gross and Mac Taylor, Colonial Pipeline Company
Colonial Pipeline delivers a daily average of 100 million gallons of gasoline, home heating oil, aviation fuel and other refined petroleum products to communities and businesses throughout the South and Eastern United States. Damage prevention at Colonial Pipeline Company is taken very seriously. Tim and Mac will discuss Colonial’s practices to protect their pipelines from damage.

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Locating Underground Utilities – A New Perspective**
John Cook, One Vision Utility Services, LLC (“One Vision”)
One Vision began locating for Virginia Natural Gas in February 2007. John will discuss One Vision’s philosophy and commitment to promote damage prevention in every way possible.

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Dedicated Locate Services for Large Projects**
George Summers, President, Ivy H. Smith Company, LLC
George Summers will present aspects of the "Large Project" notice available in Georgia. Processes and time periods specific to the locating of large projects will be explained, as well as the responsibilities of the affected stakeholders.

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Networking Break and Vendor Exhibits**

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Locator Competency**
Bud Jolly, Director of Training, Staking University
 Several serious accidents around the country point to improper locating of facilities involved. Is it time to look at a formal certification program for locators?
- 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Paperless Damage Investigation-A Path to Improved Safety**
Brian Seaburg, Director, Consolidated Utility Service, Inc.
 The advantage of capturing accurate damage data through advanced field software will be discussed.
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Ticket Management – An Operator’s Perspective**
Al Jimison, Operations Support Specialist, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc.
 Last year more than 7.5 millions of tickets were transmitted to operators for marking. Utility operators can take proactive measures to identify trends and problems associated with locate requests from excavators and from locates performed by their locators. Al Jimison will explain the process used by Columbia Gas and their success in doing so.
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Questions, Answers and Discussions**
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Group Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Damage Prevention – An Emergency Responder’s Perspective**
R. C. Kephart, Battalion Chief, Virginia Beach Fire Marsha
 When an emergency arises as a result of damage to an underground utility line, prompt action must be taken by the parties involved to secure the area and prevent loss of life, injuries and damage to property or essential public services. During this session, Chief Kephart will discuss the impact a utility damage related emergency has on his resources and the community he serves.
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Serious Accidents Across the Nation**
Frank Hudik, Commission Staff
 A video of several recent underground utility damages that have occurred involving loss of life, injuries and extensive property damage will be reviewed.
- 2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Underground Utility Damage Case Studies**
Commission Staff
 Staff will present case studies regarding several recent underground utility damages in Virginia, focusing on damage causes and preventive measures.
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **The Real Cost of a Utility Damage**
Washington Gas Light Company
 The costs associated with damaging utility lines can be staggering. During this session, Washington Gas Light will discuss the real cost of a damage to one of their facilities, and the additional costs incurred by other stakeholders involved in the incident.

- 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Networking Break and Vendor Exhibits**
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Enhanced Procedures for Abandoning Gas Lines to Prevent Damage**
Columbia Gas of Virginia
 During this session, improved procedures for tracking and confirming the scheduled abandonment of gas facilities before demolition will be discussed.
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Program TBA, Questions, Answers and Discussion**
- 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Group Dinner and Presentation of Awards**
 After dinner, we will recognize those who have significantly contributed and continue to assist in improving Virginia's damage prevention program.
- 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. **Hospitality**

Thursday April 26, 2007

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Group Breakfast**

General Session

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Managing an Effective Damage Prevention Program**
Washington Gas Light Company
 Instituting an effective damage prevention program is a responsibility shared by all utility operators. During this session, Washington Gas will explain their policies and procedures for managing their damage prevention program.
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Damage Prevention Education Programs for the Non-English Speaking Excavators and Exploring New Ideas for Public Education**
Commission Staff, VUPS Staff
 A discussion on the available damage prevention items and training programs available from the Commission and VUPS for non-English speaking excavators. New ideas to educate this audience and others will be explored.
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. **Damage Prevention Jeopardy**
 A damage prevention presentation that will test the knowledge of three lucky Virginia stakeholders.
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Networking Break**
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Open Forum Panel**
 An opportunity for conference attendees to ask questions of the Commission Staff, utility operators, excavators, locators and VDOT relative to damage prevention.
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Action Items for 2007/2008**

Adjourn